

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

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O P 230830Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3729

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

MAMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY 610

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1015

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: FOREIGN ABDUCTEES AND SECURITY OF AMERICANS

REF: ASMARA 1013

1. IN 35 MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH APO AND OIC NAVCOMMUNIT, BG
GETACHEW, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, WHO WAS IN UNUSUALLY
RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE MOOD, PROMISED HIS FULLEST COOPERATION IN
EXPEDITING RELOCATION AND CONCENTRATION OF AMERICANS INTO TWO
SITES MENTIONED REFTEL. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT DOD-
CONTRACT CIVILIANS WILL NOW BE REQUIRED TO MOVE INTO MORE SECURE
AREAS, AND THAT CISCO IS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF HIRING
ARMED GUARDS FOR RESIDENCES OF MARRIED EMPLOYEES FROM SECURACOR,
COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGENCY LOCATED IN ADDIS. GETACHEW ADDED
THAT THESE GUARDS SHOULD BE AMHARAS AS ERITREANS WERE NOT
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TO BE TRUSTED.

2. SAYING THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC THREATS AGAINST AMERICANS OR THEIR INSTALLATIONS, GETACHEW AGREED TO CONTINUE EPMG SECURITY PATROLS IN NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE MAJORITY OF DOD-CONTRACT AMERICANS RESIDE, SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH PATROL AREA AROUND CONGEN. PATROLS IN FORMER AREA WOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL AMERICANS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED.

3. ON SUBJECT OF MICHALKE ABDUCTION, GETACHEW HAD LITTLE TO ADD. WHILE WE WAITED HE TELEPHONED COL KALEKRISTOS, POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR ERITREA, FOR LATEST WORD (WHICH WAS NEGATIVE, AND TO INSTRUCT HIM TO KEEP CONGEN INFORMED. WHEN SUBJECT OF CURRENT EPMG MILITARY OPERATION (SEPTTEL) WAS RAISED, HE SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO AVOID POSSIBLE INJURY TO MICHALKE. LIKEWISE, HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD WHEREABOUTS OR WELL-BEING OF KAGNEW FOUR.

4. GETACHEW DID MAKE STARTLING STATEMENT THAT HE EXPECTED THAT "BURWOOD-TAYLOR WOULD BE IN LONDON IN A FEW DAYS". WHEN PRESSED, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HMG WAS CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS FOR HIS RELEASE AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO MEET "BANDIT" DEMANDS. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO DISMISS MATTER BY SAYING "AT LEAST THAT'S THE RUMOR".
WAUCHOPE

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